

I am writing to ask that you reject petition 04-160, which would allow the National Association of Broadcasters to have a big hand in taking away the traffic and weather channels from satellite radio. This service provided by both XM and Sirius should in no way be considered "local" content. I think the NAB needs a lesson in what local content is. The traffic and weather channels are available to every satellite subscriber across the country. That is not local, that is national programming. No different than satellite TV offering TBS or WGN. Those are channels which originate in Atlanta and Chicago respectively and carry their local baseball teams and in the case of WGN, even local news in the afternoon and evening.

There is no dispute over those channels because they are available nationwide, just as XM and Sirius are. I do not live in a market covered by the traffic and weather channels on either radio service, but I am still very much in favor of them being there if I ever needed them, whether I was planning a vacation, or something else that the weather in a certain city could have an impact on my plans.

Another service that these traffic and weather channels provide is Amber Alerts for missing children. I think this service is vital because with so many traffic and weather channels from all over the country, we are informed of an Amber Alert that is not in our local area.

Why is that important? It is important because even if a child is abducted in Boston or New York City for example, that doesn't mean that the abductor is going to stay where the abduction took place. They are likely going to flee the area to avoid capture.

There is no telling where this person or persons will end up; they could very well end up in Binghamton. Since XM displays many of the license plates of the vehicle suspected in the capture right on the display, it would be very easy to spot the plate if it was in this area and in turn contact local police.

The bottom line is, the major reason many of us have paid subscriptions to these satellite radio services is because we are sick of the NAB telling us what content we listen too and what we don't. As a paying subscriber, I should be entitled to the same services as everyone else that has made the switch to satellite radio. The traffic and weather channels are part of that service and I would like it to stay that way.

Thank you for your time and please do your part to make sure the NAB does not get their way.